

Coins

Ten questions to test your saving savvy

By Roger Boye

HERE'S A CHANCE to put your numismatic knowledge to the test. Collectors who can't answer at least five questions correctly have been spending too much time in the sun this summer.

1—An eagle has been depicted on many United States coins. What does it signify?

2—True or false: The use of mint marks on coins began in the United States during the 19th Century.

3—The tails side of the 1978 Eisenhower dollar honors (a) The nation's war dead, (b) Liberty Bell, (c) Apollo 11 moon landing, (d) Declaration of Independence.

4—What does the term "spark erosion" mean to a coin collector? (a) An electrical process used to produce counterfeit coins, (b) The electrical system of a metal detecting machine, (c) An electrical process used to remove tarnish from a coin, (d) None of these.

5—What do John R. Sinnock, Gilroy Roberts, and Frank Gasparro have in common?

6—True or false: The cent has been the lowest coin denomination produced by the federal government.

7—True or false: The \$1 bill has been the lowest currency denomination issued by the federal government.

8—The signatures of the secretary of the Treasury and one other person appear on currency currently printed. Who is the other person?

9—True or false: The names of 26 states appear on the backside of the \$5 bill.

10—A million \$1 bills weigh approximately (a) 50 pounds, (b) 250 pounds, (c) 1,000 pounds, (d) 2,000 pounds.

ANSWERS:

1—Courage, power, and majesty. An eagle with spread wings, as on the tails side of the Washington quarter, also symbolizes protection; an eagle in flight represents guardianship.

2—False. Mint marks have appeared on coins for more than 2,000 years.

3—c.

4—a.

5—All have been chief engravers of the United States Mint, and all designed coins currently in use. Sinnock designed both sides of the Roosevelt dime; Roberts, the heads side of the Kennedy half-dollar; and Gasparro—current chief engraver—the Lincoln Memorial reverse on the cent, the reverse of the Kennedy half and both sides of the Eisenhower dollar. Their initials appear on the coins they designed.

6—False. A half-cent was struck from 1793 to 1857.

7—False. From 1862 to 1876, the government issued the so-called fractional currency to relieve a coin shortage. Approximately \$370 million worth of the notes were issued, but less than \$5,000 face value probably exists today. A three-cent note was the lowest denomination issued.

8—Treasurer of the United States, who is currently Azie Taylor Morton.

9—True. It takes a magnifying glass to see the names that are around the top of the Lincoln Memorial.

10—d.



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